

**REMARKS**

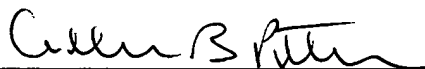
This is intended as second, supplemental response to the Final Office Action dated April 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 23, 2004 and extended one month by the accompanying Request for One-Month Extension of Time to August 23, 2004, as well as a full and complete response to the Advisory Action date July 21, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 10-14, and 17-49 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 2-9, 15-16, and 44-49 have been cancelled by Applicants. Claims 44-49 are rejected. Claims 1, 10-14, and 17-43 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 44-49, as presented in the First Response to Final Office Action dated April 23, 2004, stand rejected because the Examiner states in the Advisory Action dated July 21, 2004 that the amendment would require a re-application of the prior art used in the final rejection with a different interpretation of what structure makes up the tubular section. Applicants have cancelled claims 44-49 without prejudice.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action and Advisory Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



---

William B. Patterson  
Registration No. 34,102  
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants